

El Camino Horsehiders Will Open Season

El Camino College will unveil its "new look" baseball team tomorrow afternoon at 2:30, when it hosts the Bruins of UCLA on a non-conference opening day encounter.

The "new look" is what could be one of the fastest ball clubs ever to represent the college.

Shortstop Neil Minimi of

Gardena, centerfielder Larry McWhirter of Morningside and rightfielder Bobby Hettig of Aviation form the nucleus of Freeman's "supersonic offense."

Freeman has nominated three hurlers to see action. Larry Chastain, returning southpaw from Gardena, will open mound chores and be followed

by Tom Stephens of Westchester and Bob Delzell of Morningside, both freshmen.

Scheduled to open Saturday against Compton in a second non-conference game is North High's Jon Beck, a returning letterman.

Larry Thomas, also a veteran, and Don Coil, a freshman from Torrance High, will see

action. Game time is 1 p.m. at El Camino.

Freeman views his team's potential with obvious hope. "The pitching will be adequate and the hitting should be strong. This could shape up as a real good ball club," he commented.

While tomorrow's lineup includes but four returning let-

terbearers, it holds some of the finest South Bay prep talent. Lettermen making their season debut tomorrow are Minami, third-baseman Balchi of Morningside, Hettig, and Morningside's Larry Surdeman, a first baseman.

Of the newcomers, Mira Costa's Steve Woody, a star

pitcher and slugger while in high school, leads the talent.

Other newcomers are Nick Fuscado, former Serra High star; Jim Berry of South High; Dick Grossman, West High; Bill Klein, former Inglewood star; Jerry Van Zant of Torrance; Corky Duplan of Lennox, and McWhirter.

The Fearless Spectator

By  Charles McCabe, Esquire

That had to be a pretty bizarre scene at the recent annual dinner of the Boxing Writers' Assn. at the Americana Hotel in New York City.

On Dec. 3 the authors had voted Emile Griffith, 24, of the Virgin Islands, the fight game's most coveted trophy—the Edward J. Neal Award for "Fighter of the Year." Griffith had won the welterweight championship for the third time in 1963, some kind of a record.

But on Dec. 20 Emile had the superlative bad taste to get knocked out by Rubin (Hurricane) Carter. Not only was he knocked out, but he was stopped in the first round. He was decked twice before he got the coup de grace from Rubin.

You would think this would have posed a difficult situation. Entertaining a guy who had been judged by his hosts the greatest in the biz, even by-passing Cassius Clay, when on the basis of his most recent effort he was a patent bum.

But everybody was gallant about the whole thing, and Emile showed up and acted with becoming demureness, and the writers ate and drank themselves torpid which was, after all, the real purpose of the meeting.

But the little incident invites certain thoughts to the careful student of champship, of which I am one.

The great thing about being a champ is to stay that way, at all costs. Treasure your champship, and fondle it as you would your first-born. Champ carefully, the champship you save may be your own.

If the boxing writers say you're the glorious tops, don't let anything get in the way of that distinction. In other words, don't do anything until you hear from me. For hell hath no fury like an expert scorned. And this goes for sports experts, with knobs on.

As I've had occasion to remark, sports writing is one racket where you're never wrong. You predict that Rocky will knock out Goldie in the first round. But Goldie doesn't play it your way, and knocks out Rocky in the first.

Your bad guess is then immortalized as "the upset of the year" and hundreds of column inches are spent on the wonder of it all. Your horse doesn't end up paying \$37.50, and somebody got to the trainer, the little soandso.

Sports writing is one of the few occupations in the world where you can make your mistakes pay. But handsomely.

A baseball team loses, and it loses. A miler loses, and he loses. A sports writer loses, and he suddenly becomes fair-minded, compassionate, the very dickens of a fellow.

The only guys who come anywhere near us are the political analysts. They lap it up at some press bar somewhere and decide that Truman hasn't got a chance. And, for the next 10 years, the political journalists are gaping about the upset of the century. Authoring fine pieces about it, too, on dull days.

But even sports writers sometimes get their comeuppance. This is what seems to have happened to the boys in New York. They got hung up so badly on their Griffith prognosis that it's doubtful they'll ever get down again.

But ring authors are resourceful fellows. I think I can wager that the Griffith gaffe will not happen again. In the coming year, and years after that, I can confidently predict that the Champ of the year will be just that when he enters the Americana Hotel, or wherever, even if the authors have to bind him up and keep him in a deep-freeze until the great day arrives.

Youthful Cagers To Continue Play

Thirteen out of 71 Torrance Recreation Department teams remain undefeated this week at the halfway point in basketball action for boys from 10 to 18 years old.

Several of the 13 quintets appear headed for the March 7 playoffs that will determine the city championships in Rocky Mountain and Big Ten league play.

League winners and city champions will be crowned on March 7 at an "Awards Night" for the more than 700 boys who are participating in the program.

GAMES ARE currently being played at the North, South and Torrance high school gymnasiums.

At North, St. Catherine's leads the Skyline League with a 5-0 mark, followed by Hawthorne, Magruder and Yukon. The Rocky Mountain loop is paced by Edison and the Vikings with Casimir, Perry, the Celtics, Bryants, Lincoln, Carr, the Kings, St. Catherine, Yukon and the Rebels trailing.

North High's Big Ten circuit is led by the Butchers and the Bombers with the Gunners, the Raiders, the Mets, the Tadders and the Celtics following.

Meadow Park and Riviera pace the Skyline League at South, followed by Sepulveda,

Jefferson, Waleria, Newton, St. Lawrence and Hillside.

In the Rocky Mountain League at South, the Flavian Rams are currently on top, followed by the Riviera Celtics, the Newton Jaguars, Meadow Park, the Seaside Falcons, the Newton Cougars, the Seaside Hawks, the Sepulveda Indians, the Waleria Spartans, the Hillside Utes, the Meadow Park Trojans, the Riviera Lions, the Parkway Bullets and the Jefferson Beavers.

Minor League Big Ten play at South is dominated by the Rejects and the Little 5, with the Lakers, the Ringers and the Cookies trailing.

Torrance High Skyline action is led by the Victor Chiefs, with the Torrance Sioux, the Greenwood Vikings, the Madrona Celtics, the Torrance Hurons and the Greenwood Lakers following.

IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN competition, the Torrance Apaches and the Greenwood Indians lead the Madrona Whiz Kids, the Torrance Hohawks, the Greenwood Tartars, the Madrona Blackhawks, the Hickory Hawks and the Adams Rockets.

The Celtics pace major league Big Ten action at South High, topping the Dunkers, the Twisters, the Road Runners, the Sea Kings and the Sexy.

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